



Tourism Workforce Committee Meeting – Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 16th, 2024

The January 16th meeting of the Tourism Workforce Committee Meeting of West Virginia was convened at 2:00 p.m. virtually over the Google Meet platform.

Tourism Workforce Committee Members Present on Call:

Chair Audy Perry, Susan Riddle, Kara Dense, Thomas Price and Bradley Reed.

Economic Development Committee Members Absent from Call:

None

West Virginia Department of Tourism Representatives Present:

Secretary of Tourism Chelsea Ruby, Director of Destination Development Ennis Smith and Executive Coordinator Perri Bone and Grants and Incentives Coordinator Amanda Legg.

Others Present on Call:

Tourism Advisory Council Chair Jeffrey Lusk and Stella Hehnly (Visit Mountaineer Country CVB).

Call to Order:

Chair of the Tourism Workforce Committee Audy Perry called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Introductions:

Committee Chair, Audy Perry welcomed everyone to the call. The members present introduced themselves, along with their title and organization.

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Presentation of Tourism Workforce Development Incentives by Ennis Smith:

WV Department of Tourism Destination Development Director Ennis Smith presented information about current workforce incentives in the West Virginia tourism industry. These include a partnership with the WV Department of Education to promote workforce initiatives among K-12 students, Train your Team program with the WV Department of Economic Development and the Blue Ridge Community and Technical College Pilot Program which is part of the ongoing college-level programs for local community and technical colleges. After the presentation, members asked questions and shared feedback on the programs and how they will reach out to schools in their region.

Goal Setting for the Committee:

Chair Perry noted that members will be meeting next week at Tourism Day at the Capitol for the first quarter meeting of the Tourism Advisory Council. The Tourism Workforce Committee plans to meet sometime between this meeting and the second quarter meeting of the Tourism Advisory Council.

Adjournment:

Chair Perry moved to adjourn the meeting. Kara Dense seconded and all members approved adjournment at approximately 2:45 pm.